IN THE CLAIMS:

     Please amend claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-19 and 21-25 and add new claims 26-28 as follows:

1   Claim 1. (currently amended) An information providing method <u>embodied</u>
2 <u>in computer memory</u> ~~for a network,~~ for providing, via a network, content ~~that~~
3 ~~constitutes an entire body of information~~ based on conditions that are
4 defined in advance, comprising the steps of:
5   generating a finite number of intermediate ~~contents~~ <u>documents</u> for
6 content that corresponds to an entire body of information, wherein said
7 intermediate ~~contents~~ <u>documents</u> are ~~hieratically~~ <u>hierarchically</u> structured
8 according to ~~the~~ <u>a total</u> number of pages contained ~~therein~~ <u>in each of the</u>
9 <u>intermediate documents</u>;
10   assigning each of said finite number of intermediate ~~contents~~
11 <u>documents</u> an information level based on ~~said amount of information content~~
12 <u>the number of pages contained therein</u>; ~~and~~
13   selecting at least one of said intermediate ~~contents~~ <u>documents</u>; and
14   providing ~~information at a selected level~~ <u>the at least one of said</u>
15 <u>selected intermediate document</u>.

1   Claim 2. (currently amended) The information providing method
2 according to claim 1, wherein information contained in said ~~content~~ <u>entire</u>
3 <u>body of information</u> is employed as said intermediate ~~content~~ <u>document</u>.

1   Claim 3. (currently amended) The information providing method
2 according to claim 2, wherein information obtained by changing at least a
3 part of said information included in said ~~content~~ <u>document</u> is employed as
4 said intermediate ~~content~~ <u>document</u>.

1   Claim 4. (original) The information providing method according to
2 claim 3, wherein a condition determined in accordance with a request from a
3 user is defined as said condition that is defined in advance.

1   Claim 5. (currently amended) The information providing method
2 according to claim 4, wherein an intermediate ~~content~~ <u>document</u> is selected
3 at a level that corresponds to said condition determined in accordance with
4 said request from said user.

1   Claim 6. (currently amended) The information providing method
2 according to claim 5, wherein a condition for reducing or increasing the

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3   amount of information in said ~~content~~ <u>document</u> is defined as said condition

4   that is defined in advance.

1   Claim 7. (currently amended) The information providing method

2   according to claim 6, wherein a condition for extracting an information type

3   that represents said ~~content~~ <u>document</u> is employed as said condition

4   determined in advance.

1   Claim 8. (currently amended) The information providing method

2   according to claim 7, wherein price information is provided for said

3   ~~contents~~ <u>documents</u>, and compensation information based on said price

4   information is provided for each of said intermediate ~~contents~~ <u>documents</u> at

5   said levels that are generated.

1   Claim 9. (currently amended) An information providing <u>computer</u>

2   apparatus comprising:

3   storage means for storing content that constitutes an entire body of

4   information <u>in computer readable memory</u>;

5   connection means for connecting said content to a network so as to

6   provide said content;

7   generation means for, based on a condition determined in advance,

8   generating intermediate ~~contents~~ <u>documents</u> at a finite number of levels

9   relative to said content, wherein said intermediate ~~contents~~ <u>documents</u> are

10 ~~hieratically~~ <u>hierarchically</u> structured according to ~~the~~ <u>a total</u> number of

11 pages contained ~~therein~~ <u>in each of the intermediate documents</u>;

12   means for assigning each of said finite number of intermediate

13 ~~contents~~ <u>documents</u> an information level based on ~~said amount of information~~

14 ~~content~~ <u>the number of pages contained therein</u>; ~~and~~

15   ~~output~~ <u>selecting</u> means for selecting <u>at least one of said intermediate</u>

16 <u>documents</u>; and

17   <u>outputting</u> at least one of said <u>selected</u> intermediate ~~contents~~

18 <u>documents</u>.

1   Claim 10. (currently amended) The information providing apparatus

2   according to claim 9, wherein said generation means employs information

3   included in said content to generate intermediate ~~contents~~ <u>documents</u> at a

4   finite number of levels.

1   Claim 11. (currently amended) The information providing apparatus

2   according to claim 10, wherein said generation means employs information

3 obtained by changing at least a part of the information included in said

4 content to generate intermediate ~~contents~~ documents at a finite number of

5 levels.

1   Claim 12. (original) The information providing apparatus according to

2 claim 11, wherein said generation means includes input means for receiving a

3 request from said user, and a condition designated in accordance with said

4 request is employed as said condition determined in advance.

1   Claim 13. (currently amended) The information providing apparatus

2 according to claim 12, wherein said output means selects an intermediate

3 ~~content~~ document at a level that corresponds to said condition designated in

4 accordance with said request from said user.

1   Claim 14. (currently amended) The information providing apparatus .

2 according to claim 11, wherein said generation means generates said

3 intermediate ~~contents~~ documents by defining, as said condition determined in

4 advance, a reduction or an increase in the amount of information contained

5 by said ~~content~~ document.

1   Claim 15. (currently amended) The information providing apparatus

2 according to claim 14, wherein said generation means generates said

3 intermediate ~~contents~~ documents by defining, as said condition determined in

4 advance, extraction of an information type that represents said ~~content~~

5 document.

1   Claim 16. (currently amended) The information providing apparatus

2 according to claim 15, further comprising:

3   price storage means for storing said ~~content~~ document in correlation

4 of with price information; and

5   compensation means for providing compensation information that is

6 based on said price information for each of said intermediate ~~contents~~

7 documents at said levels that are generated.

1   Claim 17. (currently amended) The information providing method

2 according to claim 1, further comprising associating a content price for

3 each of the intermediate ~~contents~~ documents based on the number of pages

4 contained therein.

1   Claim 18. (currently amended) The information providing apparatus

2 according to claim 9, further comprising a price storage unit configured to

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3   associate a content price for each of the intermediate ~~contents~~ documents
4   based on the number of pages contained therein.

1   Claim 19. (currently amended) The information providing method
2   according to claim 1, further comprising providing a grammatical description
3   of the amount of information contained in said finite number of intermediate
4   ~~contents~~ documents.

         Claim 20. (canceled)

1   Claim 21. (currently amended) The information providing apparatus
2   according to claim 9, further comprising means for providing a grammatical
3   description of the amount of information contained in said finite number of
4   intermediate ~~contents~~ documents.

         Claim 22. (canceled)

1   Claim 23. (currently amended) A computer program product embodied in ~~a~~
2   ~~tangible media~~ computer memory comprising:
3   computer readable program codes ~~coupled to~~ stored in the ~~tangible media~~
4   computer memory for providing, via a network, content that constitutes an
5   entire body of information based on conditions that are defined in advance,
6   the computer readable program codes configured to cause the program to:
7   generate a finite number of intermediate ~~contents~~ documents for
8   content that corresponds to an entire body of information, wherein said
9   intermediate ~~contents~~ documents are ~~hieratically~~ hierarchically structured
10   according to ~~the~~ a total number of pages contained ~~therein~~ in each of the
11   intermediate documents;
12   assign each of said finite number of intermediate ~~contents~~ documents
13   an information level based on ~~said amount of information content~~ the number
14   of pages contained therein; ~~and~~
15   select at least one of said intermediate ~~contents~~ documents; and
16   ~~providing information at a selected level~~ provide the at least one of
17   said selected intermediate document.

1   Claim 24. (currently amended) The computer program product according
2   to claim 23, further comprising program codes configured to cause the program
3   to provide a description of the amount of information contained in said
4   finite number of intermediate ~~contents~~ documents.

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1   Claim 25. (currently amended) The computer program product according
2 to claim 23, further comprising program codes configured to cause the program
3 to associate a content price for each of the intermediate ~~contents~~ <u>documents</u>
4 based on the number of pages contained therein.

1   Claim 26. (new) The information providing method according to claim 1,
2 wherein the entire body of information includes text information.

1   Claim 27. (new) The information providing apparatus according to claim
2 9, wherein the entire body of information includes text information.

1   Claim 28. (new) The computer program product according to claim 23,
2 wherein the entire body of information includes text information.